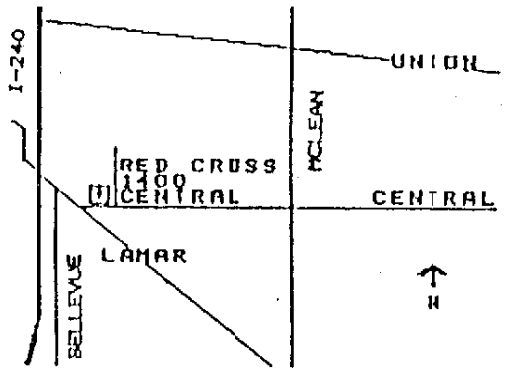
NOTICES

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, June 19
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Av.

WORKSHOP
9:00 - 12:00
Saturday, June 28
COME TO MEETING
OR CALL GARY AT 358-0667

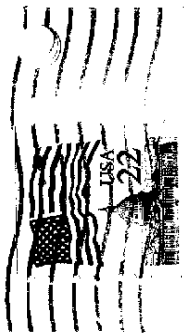


MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

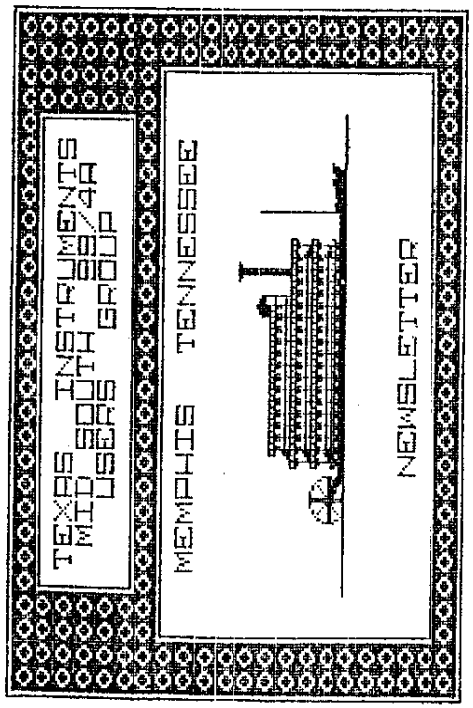
NAME _____ ☐ $15.00 FAMILY
ADDRESS _____ ☐ $10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)/
☐ $10.00 ASSOCIATE (N/L only)

CITY _____ ST __ ZIP _____ INTERESTS _____
PHONE (___) ___-_____ _____
EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE: _____ _____

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.



US 2/86
DALLAS TI USER GROUP
1221 MOSSWOOD
IRVING, TX 75061



Post Office Box 38522
Germantown, Tn 38183-0522

Newsletter for the MID-SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP Vol 4, #6 JUNE 1986

TIDBITS

PRESIDENTS BIT

Now that the summer is getting into full swing there is a natural letdown in indoor activities. But remember, the Users Group will still meet the 3rd thursday of each month during the summer. We had a very good member turnout at the May meeting and after talking to everyone who attended the Nashville TI-Faire, decided I missed out on a really great trip. Just meeting new TI friends and the fruitful exchange of knowledge made it a great trip for those who were able to attend.

Gary Cox is in need of help in securing articles for the newsletter. If any of you have any information, problems, solutions, questions, anecdotes, or anything that could be benificial to the group, let Gary Cox, Al Doss, or me know.

I'm in the process of trying to acquire a 10MEG hard disk for the Bulletin Board. This could put our BBS on the list of the finest and best equipped Bulletin Boards in the country.

As of late, my job has kept me on the road a great deal of the time, but I hope that all of that traveling will soon be only history to me.

I would like to pay special attention to the hard work of Al Doss and Gary Cox in producing our monthly newsletter. Yes, there are other people involved and I was not trying to slight their contributions, but writing the articles and then producing the MASTER newsletter make up the bulk of the job. Again, thanks Al and Gary for a job well done.

Recognition should also go to Pierre Lamontagne. Being the SYSOP of our Bulletin Board is a full time job to say the least, but he also has the responsibility of Library Chairman. We are a very lucky group to have such dedicated and talented people to fill these crucial positions.

I have ordered the new Super Extended Basic from Germany and hope it arrives by the June meeting. If so, I will try to give a short demonstration of it's capabilities.

I saw a demonstration of the new MYARC Extended Basic and the 512K MYARC Memory Card at the last Saturday workshop and was very definitely impressed. I hope it will be demonstrated at the June meeting.

With all the new software and hardware available, I can see that the capabilities of the TI-99/4A are endless, and it is my opinion that the BEST is yet to come. To me the TI-99/4A should be called SUPER CAT because it is not limited to nine lives.

OH. One more thing, We have a new newsletter front logo thanks to the artistic talents of a gifted User Group member. We should all take it upon ourselves to thank him to the fullest. A small donation from EACH member of the loose change in their pockets would be nice but... Well That's a different story.

As you can see, the old President is wound up this month and if I don't quit writing soon, the newsletter will have to be expanded. Keep the faith and I hope to see everyone at the June meeting, and remember WE EAT APPLES FOR LUNCH.

Gerald Smith
President

4/A TALK REVIEW

4/A TALK is a terminal program (a program used to communicate with a modem) written and sold by DataBioTics of California. The first terminal program written for TI was the Terminal Emulator I written by TI and then came Terminal Emulator II also by TI. As many of us soon discovered the TE2 (short for Terminal Emulator II) had many shortcommings. It's unique protocals enabled it to only transfer programs between 2 TI computers as most other non-TI systems did not recognize the TE2 transfer protocal. This limitation limited our file transfer abilities although the TE2 would still communicate with other non-TI systems. Even though the TE2 is great for calling a TI BBS, many of which access features only found in the TE2 cartridge, communicating with non-TI systems was not too much fun with TE2. Many terminal programs have been written to try to take the place of and improve on the TE2. Unfortunately in the process many good features of the TE2 was lost such as the TE2 file transfers... In my extensive review of 4/A Talk I have found it to be the best terminal program available today for the TI.

Features of 4/A TALK include the ability to communicate at a speed of up to 9600 baud, allow you to print to the printer incomming characters as they are displayed on the screen, change text and screen colors to suit your taste, and you are able to select from a 30-40 character screen width.

Three types of file transfers are available. The first is the TE2 protocal which enables the transfer of programs with any other system that understands the TE2 protocal which is usually another TI. Furthermore, the TE2 transfers on 4/A Talk has been enhanced as instead of numbers counting up they count down so you know exactly how much longer the download will take. On the other hand, TE2 just counts upward and you have no idea when it might finish... A popular protocal used today called XMODEM is also included which allows the transfer of files or programs to and from systems other than TI's. XMODEM transfers are also twice as fast as TE2 transfers. A added feature allows the transfer of DV 80 files (TI Writer files) using XMODEM to other systems in a manor which they can display. With the exception of this feature when a file is transfered using XMODEM only the brand computer who sent it can read it again so this feature provides more compability. A strait ASCII transfer (keyboard transfer) is included as well.

A disk manager is available on 4/A Talk which can be used while on line. I found this an invaluable asset as countless times I have needed to catalog a disk while on line to determine if I have enough room for a file transfer or to find a program. The disk manager has the ability to rename, delete, protect and unprotect files as well as ability to display the full disk directory.

For those who own "smart modems" (auto dial modems) an auto dialer program is built into 4/A Talk. The auto dialer is very simple to use as a menu is displayed of BBS's (which I can create) and I simply select the BBS or system I wish to call and it will dial the number for me and continue dialing if I wish until it gets through. The auto dialer is setup in a very good manor.

A capture buffer is built into 4/A TALK which can be used to capture incomming data and send the data to disk for later retrieval. A gauge is displayed on the bottom of the screen to alert you when the buffer is full so you can ther save the buffer to disk. 4/A Talk also has small features here and there which all in all makes it a great terminal program.

The only problem I found with it is that due to memory limitations when the capture buffer is open (recording data) a few abilities are not functional but it is nothing that is really bothersome. 4/A Talk is not the "ultimate terminal program" that I have dreamed of but it sure comes very close to it and I am completely sadisfied with it and therefore, recommend it to all modem users as a must for anyone serious about their modem or computer. In compairson to TE2 4/A Talk leaves TE2 in the dark and in compairson to FAST-TERM 4/A Talk has many more features than FAST-TERM althouth FAST-TERM is also an excellent terminal program. 4/A Talk will be demonstrated at this months meeting. Price is $15.95 + $3 shipping from:

DataBioTics
P.O. Box 1194
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

P.S. I am the Sysop of the TI Sig on a local Radio Shack BBS called T.U.G. on which I have downloads available for TI using XMODEM. Call 358-TBBS for information. 4/A TALK does a great job downloading off of T.U.G. also!

Gary Cox

BASIC COLOR SHOW

This is an amazing program that runs in TI BASIC only that will produce a great color graphics show! It appeared in the March 86 newsletter of the WEST PENN 99ers. To run the program in XB you need to change the 16 in line 120 to 14 as XB has 2 less character sets than TI BASIC.

```
100 RANDOMIZE
110 CALL CLEAR
120 FOR A=1 TO 16
130 CALL COLOR(A,INT(16*RND)+1,INT(16*RND+1))
140 NEXT A
```



```
150 CALL SCREEN(15*RND+1)
160 FOR A=1 TO INT(15*RND+1)
170 X=INT(19*RND+1)
180 Y=INT(19*RND+1)
190 W=INT(500*RND+1)*(RND+1)*(RND+1)
200 FOR B=1 TO INT(10*RND+1)
210 Z=INT(136*RND+24)
220 CALL VCHAR(Y+INT(6*RND),X+INT(14*RND),Z,W)
230 W=INT(W*RND+1)
240 CALL HCHAR(X+INT(6*RND),Y+INT(14*RND),Z,W)
250 NEXT B
260 NEXT A
270 GOTO 120
```

WRAP FISH IN THIS

I just finished talking to Gary Cox. He's the guy that single-handedly keeps the newsletter coming out every month. He wanted to ask me whether quad density disk drives ($39.95... such a deal!) would work. I told him that I had read that the heads of a quad density drive would be exactly one-half of a track out of alignment for double-density use. He recalled all the trouble he had alignirg his disk drive once before. I sympathized since I had to go through the same crap myself.

We chatted about FunlWriter (I'm using it to write this). It gives you a TI-Writer compatible word processor that loads from X-Basic (don't need the TIW module), includes an improved ShowDirectory command, goes into the editor, formatter, disk manager, DISKO, Assembler or FORTH from a menu screen, keeps the filename internally so that when you flip from the editor to the formatter you don't have to re-key it, and a dozen other little improvements. Real cute. I recommend you all get it and send the guys at Funnelweb Farm ten or twenty dollars.

We chatted about the TI-Fest in Nashville. You no doubt read about it in last month's newsletter.

And then he did it.

He kind of slid it in there with his voice real low and whining. When he said it, it made my guts tie in a knot. I became a blubbering, guilt-ridden blob of worthless flesh. I averted my eyes from the telephone and began to stutter.

What he did was no less than ask me for an article for the newsletter! How could he be so mean. Then he asked when was I going to get on the TIBBS bulletin board. Oh, slings and arrows of outrageous guilt. I have been a bad user. Worse, I have been a bad V.P. For months I have been begging off with the cry, "I've been soooooooo busy".

Oi.
So now, I resolve to give something back to the group in the next few months. To the group that has helped me restore my vascillating interest in a machine that many said had died. A group of friends that I get to see all too seldom. To you, all of

you, I swear that I will write something, something about C99 or the latest FORTH programs or Mac Swope's standalone autodialer or just some gibberish that you can wrap fish in.

And if I don't get something written, Gary Cox knows how to RUN DSK1.GUILT on me.

Dick Vandenberg

LIBRARY UPDATE

Our Disk and Cassette library has grown extensively the past year and is still rapidly growing. The programs available in our library are FREE of charge to members of the group. Some of the most recent programs to arrive in our disk library is Funlwriter which is an Extended BASIC version of TI-Writer which has been updated to far exceed the TI-Writer cartridge! Included on the Funlwriter disk as well is many useful utilities such as an XB Forth loader, sector editor and most of all options of the Editor/Assembler cartridge giving you the ability to run the many programs that prevously required the Editor/Assembler cartridge. We also have the latest update of Disk Manager 1000 3.1 which has more added features. If you do not have DM 1000 it is a must for anyone who frequently copy and transfer files on disk... You will NEVER use the disk manager cartridge again after you use this one. Also recently added to the library is a re-write of the TI-Writer manuel which is much easier to understand. Other programs include SIDEPRINT which prints Multiplan files sideways on the printer and DM99 a FANTASTIC resident disk manager. DM99 loads into upper 32K memory where it does not effect anything you are doing in Extended BASIC. When it is needed it may be called up and it will have no effect on your program in Extended BASIC! Many more programs are on the way, check the library list at the meetings for details on what we have available. Funlwriter itself would make it worth your time to attend a meeting to pick up a copy.

Someone recently asked me the question "what is FREEWARE?". FREEWARE (also called SHAREWARE) is a term which means you may obtain a copy of a persons program which is described as FREEWARE free of charge. If you use the program the author requests that you send him a donation for the LONG hours spend creating the program. By sending in a donation you encourage the author to write more programs and it is a way of saying THANK YOU for supporting TI! Some programs in our library are FREEWARE so if you use the programs and think they are worth a donation please send a contribution to the author as he will greatly appreciate it!

Gary Cox

IN THE NEWS

BY
Gary Cox

In a recent letter received from Control Data Corporation I was informed that the Plato educational software is still in production for TI owners! According to the catalog which I received from them "manufacturing for the TI99/4A products in 1986

will be primarily on an order basis only three times during the year. This is so that we can manufacture the products on a volume basis and pass the savings on to you, the customer. However, because we realize that you have special needs in between these ordering dates, we will carry some inventory to help you out during those unextected times." Volume discounts of up to 25% off are available. This requires advanced planning due to the longer volume manufacturing cycle. Orders must be placed with Control Data before, April 1, August 1 and October 1. All educational series are available (those that are converted for TI which is a LOT!). Control Data also has the Plato Interpreter for $50 (discounted price slightly lower) and Plato software is also available through third parties such as Tenex. I recently purchased the Plato Interpreter and demonstrated the software at a recent meeting and I found the software to be of TOP quality. In my opinion it is the next best thing to actually taking a course in the subjects and sometimes better as you can take it at your own pace with the Plato Software and it is fun. Subjects range from Physics, Math, English to foreign languages in assorted grade levels... The Plato Interpreter cartridge is required to run the Plato Software and the cartridge required a disk system and 32K memory. For more information you should write to L. B. Lewytzkyj who is in charge of the TI product line at Control Data at the following address:

L. B. Lewytzkyj
Control Data Corporation
8100 34th Ave. So., HQB026
Minneapolis, MN 55440
(612) 853-3162

A toll free hotline is available to answer your questions about the use and operation of their educational courseware products. The number is 1-800-328-4951 and ask for Bette or Bobby. Plato Software is expensive but it is of one of the higest quality educational software available for any computer today! Many schools use it. If a coupple of people in the group is interested in purchasing some Plato Software contact me at 358-0667 as we as a group can order the software at a discount and the more orders the bigger the discount. Schools are also welcome to order through us. By the way the group does not make anything off of this deal we just doing this as an added support to TI users.

Roberts Information Systems has released their Spellbound program available for Apple II, C-64, Kaypro, TRS-80 Model 4 and the TI99/4A. The program which comes on disk or cassette is a professionally designed educational computer program which provides effective spelling practice for any student who can read the spelling words. Many different features are included. The price is $14.95. For more information write to:

ROBERTS Information Systems Inc.
152 W. 4th P.O. Box 666
Prineville, OR 97754
(503) 447-6275

TG Products of P.O. Box 8248, Longview, TX 75607 has asked us to mention to our members to watch for their AD in the June issue of

Compute Magazine of their Joystick Kit. The kit will include all the parts necessary to assemble your own joystick. The chief advantage to assembling your own joystick is the availability of spare parts and the assurance that if a part wears out, you do not have to send it back for repairs as you can do it yourself. Kits are available for Commodore, Apple, IBM, Atari and TI99/4A and includes all schematics, plastics, cables, and components. Price for TI is $12.95.

In a recent letter to Guy Romono of the Amion Helpline Guy mentioned a "policing" agency founded by legitimate mail order firms to protect the consumer. So if you ever have trouble with a mail order firm that can not be resolved with the company contact the Mail Order Action Line at:

Mail Order Action Line
6 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017
(212) 689-4977

They might be able to help.

Support your local user group, they are your link to the TI World!

Gary Cox

DV80 FILES EXPLAINED

```
1 DATA TEST
2 DISPLAY AT(12,2)ERASE ALL:"Do you need Instructions? N"
  :: ACCEPT AT(12,28)VALIDATE("YN")SIZE(-1):I$
  :: IF I$="N" THEN 9
3 ON ERROR 8 :: READ FN$ :: OPEN #1:"DSK1."&FN$,INPUT
4 CALL CLEAR :: FOR X=1 TO 22 :: IF EOF(1)THEN 7
5 LINPUT #1:A$ :: DISPLAY AT(X,1):A$ :: NEXT X
  :: DISPLAY AT(24,5)BEEP:"PRESS ANY KEY..."
6 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF NOT S THEN 6 ELSE 4
7 DISPLAY AT(24,7):"PRESS ANY KEY..." :: CALL KEY(0,K,S)
  :: IF NOT S THEN 7 ELSE CLOSE #1 :: ON ERROR STOP :: GOTO 9
8 DISPLAY AT(9,1)ERASE ALL BEEP:"The Filename in
  line 1":"Is incorrect...": :"Edit line #1 so
  it contains":"the correct Filename." :: STOP
9 ! The rest of your program should follow after this line
```

I thought I would enlighten some of you of an easy way to add instructions or any other pertinent information to any program that you wish to know or have known prior to running a particular program. The program although small was written to be as simple to use as possible. I hope that you find it to be so.

To start with, let me explain the procedure. I am assuming you are familiar with TI-Writer since it is available to run in Extended Basic as freeware. If you don't have this version, it is now available in our library. All you need to use this version is the TI-Writer disk itself, Extended Basic, and a disk system.

After typing in the program, Save it as "DSK1.INST/PRNT,MERGE" (do not type the quotes). Let's say you want to have instructions for

a program called AMORTIZE. The first thing to do is to write the instructions or message in TI-Writer. Load in Ti-Writer, and set your TABS by pressing T and enter from command mode. Now you are ready to set the left and right margins. Since a screen in X-Basic is 28 characters wide for text, you need to go to the 28th dot and type an R. If you have problems with the side borders of your TV screen, place the R at the 27th position. On the first position(period) type a L or again if the screen on the left side covers that position, type the L on th 2nd position. You may want to do this just for looks which is fine too. Now you are ready to type in the message. You don't have to worry about chopping off words thanks to the auto-wrap feature. After you've finished, go to command mode and save the file. Remember the filename you used, you will need it later.

Now go to EXtended Basic and load in AMORTIZE. After it has loaded check to make sure that the first line in the program is at least larger than 10, if not type RES and enter. If you don't know how to check it, type LIST -100 and ENTER. Place the disk with the INST/PRNT program on it in drive 1. Type MERGE"DSK1.INST/PRNT" (type the quotes) and ENTER. Now both programs are one! Edit lire 1 and replace the word TEST with the name of the file that you used when you saved your TI-Writer work. Now save what you have just done. You can use the same name as the program was originally unless you wish to have an unmodified version either way you car bypass the instructions as soon as it runs. To try it out just type RUN and type a capital Y (if you get a honk, Press the ALPHA LOCK key down. The file that is in line 1 will be read if it is indeed on the disk in drive 1. If it doesn't work check your spelling. Remember in line 1, do not type DSK1. only the name of the file, make sure it is capital letters, and do not delete DATA. Call me if you have difficulties.

For the technical buffs I will break the program down line by line command by command and explain it all.

Line 1 contains a DATA statement after which follows the name of the file to be read. Line 2 will erase the screen and ask if you need instructions. Note the N in the DISPLAY AT statement. This is the default value placed on the screen. ACCEPT AT will, with a negative SIZE parameter, allow input from existing text on the screen. The IF Statement checks the string variable and decides whether to bypass or not.

Line 3 has an ON ERROR, this sets program flow to GOTO line 8, should it encounter an anticipated error, in this case not finding a file on the disk. Now the word after DATA is read into FN$ :: The OPEN statement readies the computer to allow INPUT from the disk drive as DSK1.FN$ (FN$ containing the File Name). Note that if the INPUT parameter were not specified the computer would open the file in UPDATE mode (INPUT/OUTPUT) and would create a new file therefore erasing the old one!

Line 4 clears the screen, sets up a FOR/NEXT loop and checks for the End Of File character if found, program flow will be to line 7.

Line 5 Linputs one record(line) from the file and displays it on the Xth row till it reaches the 22nd row, at which time a "Press any key" message is displayed.
Line 6 waits for a key press. If a key is not pressed it will check again, when a key is finally pressed, program flow goes back to line 4.

Line 7 happens when the last record of the file has been read from the disk. It displays the " press any key" message and waits for a key press. When a key does get pressed, the file is closed and the program flow is directed to line 9 and starts the rest of your AMORTIZE program. A note for the purpose of the ON ERROR STOP statement. It restores normal error handling procedures. If it were not used, and the amortize program ran into an error, it would still GOTO line 8! so now you know.

Line 8 is what happens when an error is encountered from line 3 when the computer unsuccessfully tried to find the file on drive one.
Simply, it tells you what could be wrong since it couldn't open the file in line 3 that gets it's filename from the DATA in line 1.

Line 9 is a simple REMark statement.

Well, now that you are thoroughly cornfused, you should at least have fun using any newly introduced commands in the above program. I am not a writer so if you have trouble understanding some of this, it may not be your fault. Just give a holler at one of the meetings and I'll be happy to try to shed some light on any area that may be a little cloudy...

Pierre LaMontagne,
signing off.

PROGRAM BIT

This months meeting will consist of 2 great demonstrations. The first demonstration will be of the Myarc Extended BASIC II using the Myarc 512K memory card. The Myarc XB II has many new features and is faster than regular XB. I think you will find it a very enjoyable demonstration. A new member Johathan Leslie will be doing the demonstration.

The second demonstration done by me will be of modems. I will attempt a live connection with Compuserve Information Services (a huge database system) and we will even try to call our TIBBS board if it is not busy. As a backup to our board being busy I will have a recorded session which I will demonstrate how to do. I will be using 4/A Talk (terminal program like the Terminal Emulator II cartridge) to communicate using the modem. I will go though and show the features of 4/A Talk and will compair it to other terminal programs such as the TE2 and FAST-TERM.

We will have some other demonstrations as well probably including some music and graphics which as of this writing has not been finalized. The disk and cassette library will be available and

the BASIC programming class should be in operation for an all around good time... Please come.

Gary Cox

SUPER SPACE REVIEW

By
Gary Cox

Super Space is a new cartridge produced by DataBioTics of California. The cartridge is actually a duplicate of the Editor/Assembler cartridge but an added 8K of battery backed RAM memory has been added and can accessed by an assembly language program or used to store such programs. In effect you create your own cartridge which can be ran by selecting the appropriate choice on the program selection menu. Super Space is basically the same as the Home Brew Module described in the June, July and August MICROpendium in which a description was made on how to build a Super Cartridge yourself. Unfortunately, building one of your own required the destruction of a game cartridge (for the circuit board) and the risk of destroying your Editor/Assembler cartridge. Knowledge of putting together electronics were also required... Super Space emiminates these risks as you can purchase it already together.

The 8K RAM memory in Super Space occupies address space from >6000 to >7FFF which is available for your use in assembly language programs or you can load an existing assembly language program into that space and use a GROM header to put the selection on the main program selection menu. One such assembly language program that I know of that has been compressed and placed into the 8K memory is FAST-TERM and Super Bugger II. Therefore, you turn a assembly language program on disk into cartridge form. Furthermore, ROM only cartridges such as Atari and Funware (most if not all TI cartridges are NOT ROM) can be copied using CVAC (a utility program that comes with Super Space) and placed into the 8K memory. To do this you must have a cartridge expander (Widget) or some other manor to prevent the computer from resetting while you take out Super Space and put the cartridge you want copied into the computer. The cartridges saved still requires Super Space to run because of the unique format they are saved to disk in. This cartridge is then displayed on the power up program selection menu.

An E/A BASIC program is included to create more selections on the power up program selection menu (up to 9 selections). With this you can cause the Editor/Assembler run options to be active and to either load and run (option 3 of E/A) or run (option 5 of E/A) anassembly program. You just setup a loader and all you have to do is select the program you want and that program is then loaded off of disk and ran just the same as if you went into the Editor/Assembler and selected the appropriate options and typed in the file name... This way only one step is required to run the assembly language program and remember that this loader information is stored into the 8K battery backed memory. For assembly language programs that require the routines pulled up when a CALL INIT is preformed a file called UTILITIES is on the disk that comes with Super Space to add these utilities in to

Super Space...

Super Space comes with several utility programs and with a lines and circles demonstration program that can be easily loaded into the 8K battery backed RAM and ran from selection 3 or 4 on the power up program selection menu.

In conclusion, I found the cartridge something unique and great for someone interested in assembly language programming and creating your own 8K cartridges as well as being able to copy a few. You might call Super Space a "poor man's Gram Kracker" but if you can afford a Gram Kracker you can do about the same things as with Super Space and certainally a lot more! Super Space comes with a manuel, disk and of course the cartridge. It requires a disk system with 32K although when a program in placed into the 8K (such as the demo that comes with it) the 32K is not needed to run it as it is now just like a cartridge. If you do not already have the Editor/Assembler disks (Disk A and B) or the E/A manual you will have to obtain those from another source. A manual and disk is included with Super Space and the cost is $49.95 or $42.95 in kit form where you must put it together. The utility disk and manual by itself is $14.95. Again I recommend this only for those who are at least somewhat familiar with assembly language. However, there is already several FREEWARE programs available to operate with Super Space. Futhermore, if you do not have the E/A already you might consider this as an alternative to buying the E/A as this has more features. Still the E/A disks and manual will be needed.... For more information write to:

DataBioTics
P.O. Box 1194
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

Gary Cox

SHOPPERS CORNER

WANTED:
TI Color Monitor and TI-Count programs. If you have any of these items please contact Walker Morris at 901-761-5354 as he is interested in buying them. Walker would also like to see the TI-Count programs, even if you do not wish to sell yours, to see what they are like so if you can help him out please contact him.

FOR SALE:
TI99/4A console (Grey) with cassette cables, Joysticsks and assorted cartridges such as Munchman, Pacman, The Hunter and some others. Asking around $50 for everything. If interested call Stacy Roland at 377-1251.

Locally:

I was recently in Childrens Palace in Raleigh and founc they have Multiplan and TI-Writer for $30 a piece and some assorted pieces of cartridge software. Games "N' Gadgets in the Mall of Memphis also has some assorted cartridge software and sometimes small hardware such as a Widget. These are the ONLY places in town that I have found that still have any TI items anymore!

TIBBS INFORMATION

Our TIBBS board has been in operation now for over a year with more than 11,000 callers! The board is operated locally by our club FREE of charge (although donations are welcomed) primarily for use by TI users although we welcome any computers to the system. The board operates 24 hrs a day at 901-357-5425 at a speed of 300 or 1200 baud (depending on the speed of your modem). By selectirg (#3) Default option on the TE2 cartridge you will be all setup to call TIBBS at 300 baud. Simply dial the number and connect your modem and the board will then give you all necessary instructions and it will even talk to you if you have a speech synthesizer. Shown below is a printout of the menu displayed on TIBBS for a reference for those who currently call the board and we hope that those who have not called the board before will now do so. Information such as product reviews and news is available as well as many programs which can be transfered to your system at home by modem. The main section of the board is the message base where conversations are conducted between the users of the system. We even have many long distance callers who call to get in on the conversatiors or to obtain a program.

The mininum requirements for calling the system is an RS232 (either a standalone or one for the PEB), a modem and a terminal program such as the TE2 cartridge which I recommend for those who call TIBBS as the board has features specifically designed for the TE2 cartridge. However, a disk drive is required to download a program. Also one hint, your backspace key is CTRL H and NOT FCTN S when communicating with the modem. Have fun...

```
\\\\\  The TIBBS(tm) MENU  /////
 \\\\\ Press [A] to abort /////

[B]_BULLetins from TIBBS_____[B]
[C]_CHAT with SysOp_________[C]
[E]_ENTER a messages________[E]
[F]_FEATURES  TI with TE/2T_[F]
[G]_GOODBYE (Log OFF)_______[G]
[H]_HARD/Software catalog___[H]
[I]_INFOrmation on User Groups_[I]
[L]_LOCAL BBS System Numbers_[L]
[M]_MESSAGE count/System status[M]
[N]_NEWSletter section______[N]
[O]_OTHER TIBBS(tm) systems__[O]
[P]_PASSWORD change_________[P]
[R]_READ messages sequentially_[R]
[S]_SCAN/SEARCH message base_[S]
[X]_X-PERT user mode ON/OFF__[X]
[#]_Listing of new users____[#]
[!]_Daily user's log________[!]
[?]_Displays this menu______[?]

End of file
00:43am_>
FEATURES_>
```

```
          .....................
          '  FEATURES MENU    '
.....................................
'
' [A]_ALTER screen colors (TE/2)
' [D]_DOWN/LOAD a program to you
' [H]_HELP file for Features
' [L]_LIST D/L programs & describe
' [Q]_QUICK LIST ( names only)
' [N]_NEWS in the TI world
' [P]_PRODUCT news
' [U]_UP/LOAD a program to TIBBS
' [X]_EXIT (return to main menu)
' [G]_Goodbye (log off)
'
.....................................
          ' T. I. B. B. S. '
          '''''''''''''''''''

End of File
FEATURES_>
```

NEW MAGAZINE REVIEWS

Home Computing Journal (once HCM and 99er) finally mailed out their first issue after their change to their new name to HCJ. The new issue comes with both a printed publication and programs on disk (or cassette?) . The magazine is published every three months and is available by subscripton only at a price of $25 for one issue with the price being lower the more issues you subscribe to.

HCJ caters to Apple II, Atari, C-64, IBM and TI owners. In the "Features" section are three programs with a version for all five computers. The programs in this issue are "Designer Genes", "Word Weave" and "Digital Dumpster".

With Designer Genes you fashion new creatures by conducting a series of laboratory experiments to isolate an organism with a specific trait. Test alternatives in a Bio-Lab and draw conclusions from the evidence. Use your scientific curiousity and powers of logic to unravel this genetic puzzle. WordWeave is a specialized word processor with Read and Write options which allow you to create and employ "decision maps"- such as interactive fiction, family trees, trouble-shooting manuals, identification guides, or a myriad of other branching-text applications. "Digital Dumpster" is an "EPA simulation" that does a excellent job of teaching algebraic thinking and binary-to-decimal conversion by means of an engrossing educational game.

Other sections of HCJ are FOCUS which includes an individual small program for each brand computer, Tech Notes which includes a technical note for each computer and in our case for TI it has information on changing the battery in Mini-Memory. HCJ really does not have a lot of articles in it as the major portion of it's 32 pages is sort of a users manual for the programs on disk with a tutorial on the programs...

As for my opinion of HCJ, I found the programs to be of very good quality, higher quality than that found in regular computer magazines. However, I was disappointed that there was no product news or reviews but the coverage of each brand computers was equal. A price of $25 seems a little high for me but you will have to decide for yourself. I will have my issue for inspection at the meeting. Their address is Home Computing Journal, P.O. Box 70248, Eugene, OR 97401.

The first issue of the new The Smart Programmer arrived this month. This is a 16 page techinically oriented publication with tips on programming, FORTH the GK and more. Craig Miller writes some of it along with Barry A Traver and others. The publication is 16 pages long with a yearly subscription of $18 a year from: Bytemaster Conputer Services, 171 Mustang Street, Sulphur, LA 70663

Genial TRAVelER is a new diskazine (magazine on disk only) by Barry Traver. Subscription is $30 for six issues from: GENIAL COMPUTERWARE, 835 GREEN VALLEY DRIVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128

Gary Cox

PROTECTION

There are strong FEDERAL LAWS against duplicating copyrighted programs. Please donot break these laws!

24hr. TIBBS BULLETIN BOARD
901-357-5425 300/1200 baud

DISCLAIMER

The Mid-South 99 Users Group is not affiliated, sponsored by or has any relationship with any company implied or otherwise. Any mention of a company or product is not an endorsement of either the company or the product.

NEWSLETTER INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of TIDbits while they deside if they wish to join (no obligation). A GREEN newsletter and/or dollar signs ($$$) indicate that your dues are due. Please pay your dues to be able to continue to receive the newsletter and other benefits of the group. You will note a letter and date on the top of your address lable. The letter indicates if you are a member and the date indicates the last time you paid your dues. One year from the date your dues are due!
PLEASE NOTE LARGE TYPE IS AVAILABLE PH. 743-6781

CALENDAR

MEETINGS:June 19,July 17,August 21,(third Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS:June 28,July 26,August 30

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